



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Education Secretary Bersin Turns to Higher Education at CPEC Meeting

SACRAMENTO — December 1, 2005 — Governor Schwarzenegger's Secretary of Education, Alan D. Bersin, will address the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) at its December 7, 2005, meeting to discuss higher education issues critical to California's future. Topics to be discussed with CPEC commissioners include accountability in higher education, workforce development, and academic preparation.

"California will spend over \$12 billion in taxpayer dollars this year for higher education," said CPEC Executive Director Murray J. Haberman. "The willingness of Secretary Bersin to engage our Commission in dialogue is a testament to the importance that the Administration puts on higher education as a driver of California's economic engine."

Secretary Bersin assumed his post in July of this year and has been engaging in extensive efforts to reach out to both the K-12 and higher education communities. Bersin welcomed the opportunity to address the Commission following initial meetings with CPEC senior staff.

"California's institutions of higher education hold the key to our state's future. There are no more critical decisions facing policy makers today than how to best provide the long-term planning, leadership, and accountability necessary to ensure our colleges and universities are up to this challenge," said Bersin.

Commission Chair Howard Welinsky joined in welcoming Bersin and promised a receptive audience for the Secretary's ideas about higher education in California. "The Commission looks forward to understanding and helping to meet the higher education priorities of this Administration. The people of California have a huge stake in their system of higher education and they want to know that it is responsive, as well as accessible and affordable," said Welinsky.

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CPEC has undertaken major initiatives in accountability and workforce development. Its website www.cpec.ca.gov has long been a destination for policy makers and the public seeking information about higher education in California. It now includes the initial phases of an accountability framework intended to benchmark performance towards critical goals in higher education such as student success, diversity, and access.

The Commission, in cooperation with other education and employment agencies, is also charting a new path to better understand the nexus between California's workforce requirements and its system of higher education.

Said Haberman, "CPEC's agenda should always be reflective of the public's interest in higher education. Having clear goals and ways to measure progress towards them is the key. A strong relationship with Secretary Bersin's office will help CPEC to do its job fairly and effectively."

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.

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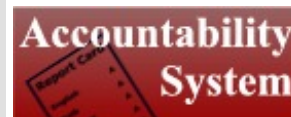
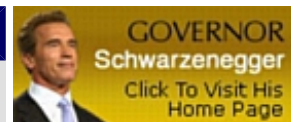
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